AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Original) A system for facilitating conception of inventions in a directed manner comprising a computer processor programmed to execute the following functions:
 - (a) requesting and accepting input comprising data selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) mess statements;
 - (ii) data statements relating to the mess statements;
 - (iii) problem statements relating to the data statements;
 - (iv) elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements;
 - (v) solutions to the problem statements;
 - (vi) limitations of problem-element-solution combinations; and
 - (vii) solutions to the limitations;
 - (b) aggregating and storing said input data; and
 - (c) providing output displaying aggregated input data of (a)(i) to (a)(vii).
- 2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the input data comprises one or more mess statements.
- 3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the input data comprises one or more data statements relating to the mess statements.
- 4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the input data comprises one or more problem statements relating to the data statements, elements and/or mess statements.
- 5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the input data comprises one or more elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements, or where the elements are randomly generated or are conceived by the users as the result of a stimulus.
- (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the elements are randomly generated.
- 7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the elements are conceived using a visual, tactile or olfactory stimulus.

- 8. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the input data comprises one or more solutions to the problem statements.
- 9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein one or more of the solutions is conceived using one element and a problem statement as creative stimulus, and the solution is stored in a manner which indicates its relationship to a problem and an element.
- 10. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the input data comprises one or more limitations of problem-element-solution combinations.
- 11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the input data comprises one or more solutions to the limitations.
- 12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the system computer processor is further programmed to instructs the user that a complete IOD invention comprises:
 - (a) a seed of an invention;
 - (b) all limitations of the seed of an invention, wherein each of the limitations has at least one corresponding respective solution; and
 - (c) all solutions to the limitations.
- 13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the computer processor is a component of a server.
- 14. (Original) The system of claim 13 further comprising one or more participant computers operably linked to the server.
- 15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14 wherein one or more of the participant computer(s) is linked via a network system selected from the group consisting of: local area networks, virtual private networks, an near private networks, the Internet, and intranets.
- 16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14 wherein:
 - (a) one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to the server;
 and/or
 - (b) one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to one or more more other participant computers.

- 17. (Currently amended) A method for facilitating conception of inventions in a directed manner, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a computer processor programmed to accept input and provide output;
 - (b) inputting into the computer processor by at least one participant data selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) mess statements;
 - (ii) data statements relating to the mess statements;
 - (iii) problem statements relating to the data statements;
 - (iv) elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements;
 - (v) solutions to the problem statements;
 - (vi) limitations of problem-element-solution combinations; and
 - (vii) solutions to the limitations;
 - (b) aggregating and storing the input data input in step (b); and
 - (c) providing output displaying aggregated input data of (b)(i) to (b)(vii).
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising facilitating the conception by one or more participants of any one or more types of information selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) mess statements;
 - (b) data statements relating to the mess statements;
 - (c) problem statements relating to the data statements;
 - (d) elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements;
 - (e) solutions to the problem statements;
 - (f) limitations of problem-element-solution combinations; and
 - (g) solutions to the limitations.
- 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising using a problem statement and an element as creative stimuli to facilitate conception of a solution to the problem statement.
- 20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising identifying one or more limitations of a problem-element-solution combination and solutions to the limitation.

- 21. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising using problem-element combinations as creative stimuli to facilitate inventive conception.
- 22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the input data comprises elements (b)(i)-(b)(vii).
- 23. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising communicating via a telephone system, the telephone system having conference calling capabilities.
- 24. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the computer processor is a component of a server.
- 25. (Original) The method of claim 24 further coomprising one or more participant computers operably linked to the server.
- 26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 wherein one or more of the participant computer(s) is linked via a network system selected from the group consisting of: local area networks, virtual private networks, an near private networks, the Internet, and intranets.
- 27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein:
 - (a) one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to the server;
 and/or
 - (b) one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to one or more other participant computers.
- 28. (New) A method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) instructing at least one participant on the concepts of:
 - (i) mess statements:
 - (ii) data statements;
 - (iii) problem statements; and
 - (iv) solutions;
 - as concepts (a)(i) through (a)(iv) relate to facilitating conception of inventions;
 - (b) instructing the at least one participant to input into a computer at least one of the following data items relating to the at least one invention:
 - (i) at least one mess statement;

- (ii) at least one data statement;
- (iii) at least one problem statement; and
- (iv) at least one solution.
- 29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein step (b) includes instructing the at least one participant to input more than one of the items (b)(i) through (b)(iv).
- 30. (New) A method of facilitation conception of at least one invention, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving at least one mess statement;
 - (b) receiving at least one problem statement;
 - (c) receiving at least one solution; and
 - (d) generating at least one invention map showing the at least one solution.
- 31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising prior to step (e) the step of receiving at least one limitation.
- 32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein step (d) comprises generating at least one invention map showing the at least one solution and the at least one limitation.
- 33. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising prior to step (d) the step of receiving a plurality of limitations and wherein step (c) comprises receiving a plurality of solutions, step (d) comprising generating an invention map for each solution of the plurality of solutions, each invention map comprising a corresponding respective solution of the plurality of solution and any of the plurality of limitations corresponding to the corresponding respective solution.
- 34. (New) A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions implementing a method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, the computer-executable instructions comprising:
 - (a) a first set of computer-executable instructions for providing a first input field and providing a first label identifying the first input field as a mess statement input field;
 - (b) a second set of computer-executable instructions for providing a second input field and providing a second label identifying the second input field as a problem statement input field;

- (c) a third set of computer-executable instructions for providing a third input field and providing a third label identifying the third input field as a solution input field; and
- (d) a fourth set of computer-executable instructions for generating at least one invention map for each solution entered into the third input field.

35. (New) A system, comprising:

- a computer containing computer executable instructions implementing a method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, the computer executable instructions comprising:
 - (i) a first set of computer-executable instructions for providing a first input field and providing a first label identifying the first input field as a mess statement input field:
 - (ii) a second set of computer-executable instructions for providing a second input field and providing a second label identifying the second input field as a problem statement input field;
 - (iii) a third set of computer-executable instructions for providing a third input field and providing a third label identifying the third input field as a solution input field; and
 - (iv) a fourth set of computer-executable instructions for generating at least one invention map for each solution entered into the third input field.

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